

# Overview of California Voting System Certification

## Application Review & Certification Test Planning

Upon submission of an application from the vendor, including the technical data package, the following occurs:

- Application is reviewed for completeness (*examples: Has all required material been submitted? Has Federal testing been completed? etc.*)
- A test plan is developed, including estimation of preliminary time/resource needs by examination team
- Conference call with vendor to finalize test dates, review test plan and communicate our expectations of the vendor
- Vendor prepares for state examination, including configuration of test election databases and production of test ballots and logic & accuracy test decks

*Note: Certification evaluation is contingent upon vendor's completed application.*

## State Examination and Testing

The purpose of the State examination and testing is to verify the security, accuracy and usability of the proposed voting system, as well as conformance with federal and state laws. While each examination will be customized to meet the features of each particular voting system, the following elements will be addressed in each examination:

- Verify a clean system and platform to meet test specifications.
- Perform detailed review of change log, as well as addressing any specific outstanding questions regarding the system.
- Install system software supplied directly to the State by the ITA. Installation to be done in accordance with proposed system use and security procedures.
- Import and verify test primary election. Conduct test primary election. Generate vote result reports and verify accuracy of vote data. Capture and preserve data from the test primary election. Repeat for general election and recall election scenarios.

## Volume Reliability Testing

The purpose of the volume reliability testing is to test a larger sample of voter interaction devices under conditions approximating a real-life Election Day environment.

## Key Stakeholder Demonstration and Evaluation

The purpose of this demonstration is to allow key stakeholders to observe and evaluate the system in operation and provide expert input into the evaluation of the proposed voting system. County election officials and members of the Voting System Technology Assessment Advisory Board (VSTAAB) participate in this event and may provide written comments on the system.

## Public Hearing and Public Comment Period

The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain public comment and feedback regarding the proposed voting system.

- Public notice, including an agenda, is published at least 30 days prior to the date of the hearing.
- Written reports from consultants and Secretary of State's office regarding the state examination testing and volume testing are completed and posted to the Secretary of State's website approximately one week prior to public hearing.
- Written public comment on the system is accepted from the time the hearing is announced to the close of business on the seventh day following the hearing. Oral testimony is accepted from any participant at the hearing who wishes to provide such testimony.
- The transcripts of the hearing are published on the Secretary of State's website as soon as they are available.

## Final Review of the System and Decision by the Secretary of State

The results from the voting system evaluation process are presented to the Secretary of State for his final determination whether to certify the proposed voting system.